

# Frequently Asked Questions

## For Coaches about SYSA Spring Soccer

*Revised: January 2024*

**SYSA's Spring Soccer League started in 2002 with just a handful of teams.** As the league continues to grow and more teams participate, it's important to keep in mind the spirit of Spring Soccer:

*A league focused on kids playing soccer in a safe, comfortable environment, without the pressure of winning and losing, allowing them to get more touches on the ball and to find joy and creativity in the game.*

Please read this FAQ carefully. If you still have questions, please contact us at [information@sypsa.org](mailto:information@sypsa.org). Please remember that nearly 500 teams participate in spring soccer each season. Email traffic can be quite hectic, and we truly appreciate your patience as we work to serve all members and respond to each question.

**This Frequently Asked Questions document is organized into two parts:**

- **Questions Most Asked by Coaches**
- **General Questions**

### **Questions Most Asked by Coaches**

#### ***HOW MANY PLAYERS ARE ON THE FIELD FOR SPRING SOCCER?***

SYSA Spring Soccer adheres to the guidelines below:

- U6: Total of 4 players on the field; no goalkeeper.
- U7: Total of 4 players on the field; no goalkeeper
- U8: Total of 5 players on the field; 4 plus a goalkeeper
- U9: Total of 7 players on the field; 6 plus a goalkeeper
- U10: Total of 7 players on the field; 6 plus a goalkeeper
- U11 and Older: Total of 8 players on the field; 7 plus a goalkeeper

## ***HOW MANY PLAYERS ARE ON A TEAM FOR SPRING SOCCER?***

SYSA Spring Soccer has its own guidelines for roster maximums. These are different than fall soccer. Our intention is that players get to play as much as possible, and not stand on the sidelines. Please contact the SYSA Registrar assigned to your club for spring soccer should you need an exception to be able to add more players to your team than the maximum allowed.

- U6: recommended roster size is 8, max allowed is 9.
- U7: recommended roster size is 8, max allowed is 9.
- U8: recommended roster size is 9, max allowed is 10.
- U9: recommended roster size is 10, max allowed is 12.
- U10: recommended roster size is 10, max allowed is 12.
- U11 and Older: recommended roster size is 14, max allowed is 16.

## ***WHICH AGE BRACKET WILL MY TEAM BE PLAYING IN THE SPRING?***

**Teams will play in the same age bracket as they did in the previous fall season.** So, if your team played U-7 in the previous fall, they will be playing U-7 for the SYSA Spring Soccer season. **Teams will not “age up” to the next age group until the next fall season.** Note that roster sizes for Spring are different than they are in the fall. Check the chart of roster sizes just above in this FAQ.

## ***HOW DO I REGISTER A TEAM THAT DIDN'T PLAY IN THE FALL?***

Because of the growth of SYSA's Spring Soccer league, there is limited space for teams that did not play in SYSA's fall league. To register a team that did not play in the fall, you will need to contact the SYSA Assistant Registrar Anne at [anne.bare@sysa.org](mailto:anne.bare@sysa.org) to get approval to register a new team. Please note that **any players who did not play on an SYSA team the previous fall** will need to register separately as Individual Players.

## ***CAN SELECT TEAMS PLAY IN SPRING SOCCER?***

**No.** Select level teams are not permitted in SYSA Spring Soccer. We consider our league a recreational league, not appropriate for select teams. However, select level players can play on existing recreational team. See the next question.

## ***CAN SELECT PLAYERS PLAY IN SPRING SOCCER?***

**Yes.** Select players can participate in spring soccer on recreational teams, adhering to the guidelines below.

SYSA considers select players to include not only those who play on SYSA Seattle United regional teams, but also those on US Club Soccer teams as well, including clubs OL Reign Academy, Seattle Celtic, Emerald City, BVBIA, and ANY program that uses selections for forming teams. Remember: it is against SYSA rules for Seattle United Premier and ECNL players to participate in SYSA recreational soccer.

Because it is hard for SYSA to know if players are on these US Club teams, we ask our coaches to use the honor system, and report to SYSA's registrars any players on their teams from any programs & clubs outside SYSA (including but not limited to those listed above).

In accordance with SYSA Admin Rule 3.4.9, teams can have up to 3 select players on the roster.

## ***CAN OVER-AGE PLAYERS & DIFFERENT GENDERS PLAY ON THE SAME TEAM?***

Spring Soccer **does not have mixed gender teams for ages U10 and above.** Players must also be age appropriate for the teams they play on. Note that at some older team divisions, because there are fewer teams, age groups are combined, allowing for players of different ages to play on the same team. No player can be over the age limit for the age group they are in.

For teams U6 – U9 aged, mixed gender teams are allowed, **only if the team was mixed gender in the previous fall season.** All mixed gender teams will be placed in the boys division of their age group for game scheduling, in accordance with the USYSA definition of team composition.

## ***CAN SYSA HELP ME FIND MORE PLAYERS IF MY SPRING TEAM DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH FALL PLAYERS?***

Yes - SYSA is allowing individual players aged U9 and older without teams to register, so we may have additional players to add to your roster. We also recommend you contact the registrar from your fall season club, to see if they can connect you with other coaches in your age group. Since not all teams elect to participate in the spring season, there may be players within your club, looking for a team to join for spring season. This is the best way to align with new players in your area and ensure players in your neighborhood have the chance to play. *Note: not all club registrars will monitor email as this time of year is considered the 'off season' and SYSA runs spring soccer.*

For players U6-U8 aged, SYSA does not provide individual player registration for spring. Because roster sizes are smaller and most teams that register have full rosters, the demand for players looking is far greater than the supply of teams with room. If a coach U6-U8 aged knows of a player they would like to add for spring, they should reach out to the SYSA Registrar assigned to their club for assistance in adding the player.

### ***WHEN WILL THE GAME SCHEDULES BE READY?***

We try to post schedules by late March. As the league keeps growing, it takes longer to create and refine accurate schedules. Coaches will be notified when the schedules are posted. Your patience is always appreciated.

### ***WHY DOES MY TEAM HAVE MULTIPLE GAMES AGAINST THE SAME OPPONENT?***

It is more fun & productive for players to play against teams of comparable ability. With teams U9 and older, we ask coaches to identify their preferred playing level during team registration: Gold, Silver or Bronze, based on the strength of their team, and considering results from the fall season. When we have enough teams to create the different play 'divisions', we will. We believe it is better to have some teams play the same team twice rather than play different teams, but have lopsided scores, due to a disparity in team ability.

### ***DO TEAMS HAVE UNIFORMS FOR SPRING SOCCER?***

New uniforms are not provided for SYSA Spring Soccer. Teams supply their own uniforms. They can use any type of jersey they choose, including something as simple as the same colored t-shirts, or jerseys from the previous fall season.

### ***ARE THERE TEAM PRACTICES IN SPRING SOCCER?***

No. Spring Soccer teams do not practice, due to a lack of available fields. Seattle playing fields in spring are primarily allocated for baseball, softball, lacrosse, boys High School & Middle School soccer, and boys and girls select soccer. **Please do not request practice fields from SYSA, or directly from Seattle Parks or Schools, or Shoreline Parks or Schools.** SYSA works hard just to acquire the playing field time we have for Spring Soccer games.

## **General Questions about Spring Soccer**

### ***WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SPRING AND FALL SOCCER?***

Spring soccer is less formal than SYSA fall soccer, and considered a developmental league. The focus is and should be on the kids having fun and getting as many touches on the ball as possible. The biggest differences are:

- **No practices**
- **Games on Sunday**
- Scores are not recorded, and no standing are kept or posted.
- Games are refereed by coaches from the teams playing the game.
- Fields are shorter and the teams are smaller.

### ***WHEN ARE GAMES PLAYED?***

Spring Soccer games are played on **SUNDAYS ONLY**.

### ***WHEN DOES SPRING SOCCER START AND WHEN DOES IT END?***

The season will begin in early April each year and be completed in mid-June. Each team will be scheduled for 8 games.

### ***ARE GAMES PLAYED ON EASTER & MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND?***

No, we do not schedule any games on Easter Sunday or the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. We do schedule games on Mother's Day and Father's Day. There

are not enough weeks available in the spring season to avoid scheduling games during some of the school spring breaks.

***Rescheduling games is not possible in Spring Soccer.*** If you are short players for a game, please be proactive. Contacting the opposing coach before the game can often help in working out a plan to share players so that the game can be played. In addition, players can be borrowed from another Spring Soccer team (be sure they are properly registered with SYSA for the spring soccer season).

### ***IS A MEDICAL RELEASE FORM NECESSARY?***

Yes. The coach/manager **MUST** have a signed medical release form for each player at all games. There are two ways to get a medical release form.

- The coach/manager may use the form from the fall season.
- The parent can download a medical release form, sign it and give it to the coach. The medical release form can be found on the SYSA website, under the Resources tab.

### ***ARE DOGS ALLOWED AT SPRING SOCCER GAMES?***

No dogs are allowed at athletic fields in Seattle and Shoreline. Please be respectful of our field providers' rules and leave your dogs at home.

**REMEMBER: Playing on a spring team does NOT impact where any player is assigned to play in the fall.** On occasion, players find new friends to play with during the spring and may want to play with them again in the fall. Most SYSA clubs do not permit this kind of player movement in the fall, as it comes very close to looking like Select soccer. Recreational teams must be formed by the club registrars to preserve the "non-select" nature of Recreational soccer. Please do not use the spring soccer season as a 'team building' or tryout for your fall team make-up. Thank you!

Questions? Concerns? Email us at [information@sysa.org](mailto:information@sysa.org)